THE BOOK OF

MICAH

CHAPTER 1

1 The word of the LORD that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

2 Hear, all ye people! Hearken, O earth, and all that is therein! And let the Lord GOD be a witness against you, the Lord from His holy temple.

3 For behold, the LORD cometh forth out of His place, and will come down and tread upon the high places of the earth.

4 And the mountains shall be molten under Him, and the valleys shall be cleft, as wax before the fire, and as waters that are poured down a steep place.

5 For the transgression of Jacob is all this, and for the sins of the house of Israel. What is the transgression of Jacob? Is it not Samaria? And what are the high places of Judah? Are they not Jerusalem?

6 “Therefore I will make Samaria as a heap of the field, and as plantings of a vineyard; and I will pour down the stones thereof into the valley, and I will uncover the foundations thereof.

7 And all the graven images thereof shall be beaten to pieces, and all the hires thereof shall be burned with fire, and all the idols thereof will I lay desolate; for she gathered it from the hire of a harlot, and they shall return to the hire of a harlot.”

8 Therefore I will wail and howl; I will go stripped and naked; I will make a wailing like the dragons and mourning as the owls.

9 For her wound is incurable; for it has come unto Judah; he has come unto the gate of My people, even to Jerusalem.

10 Declare ye it not at Gath, weep ye not at all; in the house of Aphrah roll thyself in the dust.

11 Pass ye away, thou inhabitant of Shaphir, having thy shame naked. The inhabitant of Zaanan came not forth in the mourning of Bethezel; he shall receive from you his standing.

12 For the inhabitant of Maroth waited anxiously for good, but evil came down from the LORD unto the gate of Jerusalem.

13 O thou inhabitant of Lachish, bind the chariot to the swift beast (she is the beginning of the sin to the daughter of Zion), for the transgressions of Israel were found in thee.

14 Therefore shalt thou give presents to Moreshethgath; the houses of Achzib shall be a lie to the kings of Israel.

15 Yet I will bring an heir unto thee, O inhabitant of Mareshah: he shall come unto Adullam, the glory of Israel.
16 Make thyself bald, and shear thy beard because of thy pleasant children; enlarge thy baldness as the eagle, for they are gone into captivity from thee.

CHAPTER 2

1 Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! When the morning is light they practice it, because it is in the power of their hand.
2 They covet fields and take them by violence, and houses, and take them away. So they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage.
3 Therefore thus saith the LORD: "Behold, against this family do I devise an evil, from which ye shall not remove your necks, neither shall ye go haughtily; for this time is evil.
4 In that day shall one take up a parable against you, and lament with a doleful lamentation and say, 'We are utterly despoiled; He hath changed the portion of my people. How hath He removed it from me! Turning away, He hath divided our fields.'"
5 Therefore thou shalt have none that shall cast a cord by lot in the congregation of the LORD.
6 "Prophesy ye not," say they to them that prophesy: "They shall not prophesy to them, that they shall not suffer shame."
7 Oh thou that art named the house of Jacob: Is the Spirit of the LORD straitened? Are these His doings? Do not My words do good to him that walketh uprightly?
8 "Even of late My people have risen up as an enemy; ye pull off the robe with the garment from them that pass by trustingly as men returning from war.
9 The women of My people have ye cast out from their pleasant houses; from their children have ye taken away My glory for ever.
10 Arise ye and depart, for this is not your rest; because it is polluted it shall destroy you, even with a sore destruction.
11 If a man walking in the spirit of falsehood lieth, saying, 'I will prophesy unto thee of wine and of strong drink,' he shall even be the prophet of this people!
12 "I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; I will surely gather the remnant of Israel. I will put them together as the sheep of Bozrah, as the flock in the midst of their fold; and they shall make great noise by reason of the multitude of men.
13 The Breaker has come up before them; they have broken forth and have passed through the gate, and are gone out by it; and their king shall pass before them, and

the LORD at the head of them."

CHAPTER 3

1 And I said: "Hear, I pray you, O heads of Jacob, and ye princes of the house of Israel: Is it not for you to know judgment"

2 you who hate the good and love the evil, who pluck off their skin from off them and their flesh from off their bones,

3 who also eat the flesh of My people and flay their skin from off them; and they break their bones and chop them in pieces, as for the pot and as flesh within the caldron?"

4 Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but He will not hear them; He will even hide His face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.

5 Thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that make my people err, that bite with their teeth and cry "Peace"; and he that putteth not into their mouths, they even prepare war against him:

6 "Therefore night shall be unto you, that ye shall not have a vision; and it shall be dark unto you, that ye shall not divine. And the sun shall go down over the prophets, and the day shall be dark over them.

7 Then shall the seers be ashamed, and the diviners confounded; yea, they shall all cover their lips; for there is no answer from God."

8 But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the LORD, and of judgment and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin.

9 Hear this, I pray you, ye heads of the house of Jacob and princes of the house of Israel, that abhor judgment and pervert all equity:

10 They build up Zion with blood and Jerusalem with iniquity.

11 The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money. Yet will they lean upon the LORD and say, "Is not the LORD among us? No evil can come upon us."

12 Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest.

CHAPTER 4

1 But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains; and it shall be exalted above the hills, and people shall flow unto it.

2 And many nations shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob. And He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths." For

the law shall go forth from Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
3 And He shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off. And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.
4 But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and none shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.
5 For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.
6 "In that day," saith the LORD, "will I assemble her that is halt, and I will gather her that is driven out and her that I have afflicted.
7 And I will make her that is halt a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation; and the LORD shall reign over them in Mount Zion from hence forth, even for ever.
8 And thou, O tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem."
9 Now why dost thou cry out aloud? Is there no king in thee? Is thy counselor perished? For pangs have taken thee as a woman in travail.
10 Be in pain and labor to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in travail; for now shalt thou go forth out of the city, and thou shalt dwell in the field. And thou shalt go even to Babylon; there shalt thou be delivered; there the LORD shall redeem thee from the hand of thine enemies.
11 Now also many nations are gathered against thee, that say, "Let her be defiled, and let our eye look upon Zion!"
12 But they know not the thoughts of the LORD, neither understand they His counsel; for He shall gather them as the sheaves onto the threshing floor.
13 Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion; for I will make thine horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass. And thou shalt beat in pieces many people, and I will consecrate their gain unto the LORD, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth.

CHAPTER 5

1 Now gather thyself in troops, O daughter of troops; he hath laid siege against us; they shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod upon the cheek.
2 "But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of

Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto Me He that is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."
3 Therefore will He give them up, until the time that she who travaileth hath brought forth; then the remnant of His brethren shall return unto the children of Israel.
4 And He shall stand and feed them in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God. And they shall abide; for now shall He be great unto the ends of the earth.
5 And this Man shall be the peace when the Assyrian shall come into our land; and when he shall tread in our palaces, then shall we raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men.
6 And they shall waste the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod at the entrances thereof; thus shall He deliver us from the Assyrian when he cometh into our land, and when he treadeth within our borders.
7 And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many people, as a dew from the LORD, as the showers upon the grass that tarrieth not for man, nor waiteth for the sons of men.
8 And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles, in the midst of many people, as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep, who, if he go through, both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.
9 Thine hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off.
10 "And it shall come to pass in that day," saith the LORD, "that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots.
11 And I will cut off the cities of thy land, and throw down all thy strongholds.
12 And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thine hand, and thou shalt have no more soothsayers.
13 Thy graven images also will I cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the work of thine hands.
14 And I will pluck up thine Asherah poles out of the midst of thee: so will I destroy thy cities.
15 And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury upon the heathen, such as they have not heard."

CHAPTER 6

1 Hear ye now what the LORD saith: "Arise, contend thou before the mountains, and let the hills hear thy voice.
2 Hear ye, O mountains, the LORD'S controversy, and ye strong foundations of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with His people, and He will plead with Israel.

3 O My people, what have I done unto thee? And wherein have I wearied thee? Testify against Me!
4 For I brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed thee out of the house of servitude; and I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.
5 O My people, remember now what Balak king of Moab counseled, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, from Shittim unto Gilgal, that ye may know the righteousness of the LORD."
6 With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old?
7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
8 He hath shown thee, O man, what is good: and what doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?
9 The LORD'S voice crieth unto the city (and the man of wisdom shall see Thy name): "Hear ye the rod and who hath appointed it!
10 Are there yet the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is abominable?
11 Shall I count them pure with the wicked balances, and with the bag of deceitful weights?
12 For the rich men thereof are full of violence, and the inhabitants thereof have spoken lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.
13 Therefore also will I make thee sick by smiting thee, in making thee desolate because of thy sins.
14 Thou shalt eat, but not be satisfied, and thy casting down shall be in the midst of thee. And thou shalt take hold, but shalt not deliver; and that which thou deliverest will I give up to the sword.
15 Thou shalt sow, but thou shalt not reap; thou shalt tread the olives, but thou shalt not anoint thyself with oil; and sweet wine, but shalt not drink wine.
16 For the statutes of Omri are kept, and all the works of the house of Ahab; and ye walk in their counsels, that I should make thee a desolation and the inhabitants thereof a hissing: Therefore ye shall bear the reproach of My people."

CHAPTER 7

1 Woe is me! For I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape gleanings of the vintage: There is no cluster to eat; my soul desired the first ripe fruit.
2 The good man is perished

out of the earth, and there is none upright among men. They all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net.
3 That they may do evil with both hands earnestly, the prince asketh, and the judge asketh for a reward; and the great man uttereth his wicked desire; so they wrap it up.
4 The best of them is as a brier; the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge. The day of thy watchman and thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity.
5 Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide; keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom.
6 For the son dishonoreth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law: a man's enemies are the men of his own house.
7 Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me.
8 Rejoice not over me, O mine enemy; when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.
9 I will bear the indignation of the LORD because I have sinned against Him, until He plead my cause and execute judgment for me. He will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold His righteousness.
10 Then she that is mine enemy shall see it, and shame shall cover her that said unto me, "Where is the LORD thy God?" Mine eyes shall behold her; now shall she be trodden down as the mire of the streets.
11 In that day thy walls are to be built; in that day shall the decree be far removed.
12 In that day also he shall come even to thee from Assyria, and from the fortified cities, and from the fortress even to the river, and from sea to sea and from mountain to mountain.
13 Notwithstanding, the land shall be desolate because of them that dwell therein, because of the fruit of their doings.
14 Rule Thy people with Thy rod, the flock of Thine heritage, who dwell solitarily in the wood, in the midst of Carmel; let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old.
15 "As in the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt, will I show unto them marvelous things."
16 The nations shall see and be confounded at all their might; they shall lay their hand upon their mouth; their ears shall be deaf.
17 They shall lick the dust like a serpent; they shall move out of their holes like worms of the earth. They shall be afraid of the LORD our God, and shall fear because of Thee.

18 Who is a God like unto Thee, who pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He retaineth not His anger for ever, because He delighteth in mercy.
19 He will turn again; He will have compassion upon us; He will subdue our iniquities. And Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.
20 Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob and the mercy to Abraham, which Thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.